

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 /073 W

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R 091444Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8749

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

473#5/USMISSION USUN 1863

CINCUSWME

FARUSNAAA/EUCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: CONFIDENCE VOTE OUTCOME MORE UNCERTAIN AS RPP  
MAKES NEW PROPOSAL

REF: ANKARA 2763

SUMMARY: NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT'S PROSPECTS FOR VOTE OF  
CONFIDENCE CONTINUE TO DECLINE AS FURTHER "TRANSFERS" OCCUR BETWEEN  
PARTIES. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) IS STILL LOBBYING ACTIVELY  
AGAINST NATIONALIST FRONT IN EFFORT DEFEAT VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.  
FOR FIRST TIME RPP HAS RAISED POSSIBILITY OF FORMING "LASTING"  
GOVERNMENT ITSELF (INSTEAD OF EARLY ELECTIONS) IF DEMIREL LOSES  
VOTE. END SUMMARY.

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1. AS DEBATE BEGINS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APRIL 9 ON THE

DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM, THE DEMIREL-LZJF RIGHTWING COALITION'S CHANCES OF OBTAINING A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE CONTINUE TO BE UNCERTAIN. THE COALITION'S LATEST LOSS WAS AGRI DEPUTY RIZA POLATBN WHO RESIGNED APRIL 9 FROM THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR), THUS LOWERING THE RR'S PARLIAMENTARY SEATS TO 10. WHILE POLAT HAS NOT YET DECLARED FOR ANY OTHER PARTY, HIS RESIGNATION FURTHER REDUCES THE VOTES ON WHICH DEMIREL CAN THEORETICALLY RELY TO A MAXIMUM OF 224 AGAINST 220 FOR THE OPPOSTIION. IF THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD RESIGN IN ORDER TO VOTE AGAINST THE NATIONALIST FRONT, DEMIREL'S MARGIN WOULD SHRINK TO TWO VOTES, SINCE ACCORDING RULES OF PRECEDENCE, THE JUSTICE PARTY (RP) WOULD HAVE TO FILL THE NON-VOTING VACANCY. SOME OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE THAT DEMIREL'S PRESENT SLIGHT MARGIN COULD DISAPPEAR AS ADDITIONAL PARTY SHIFTS OCCUR OR IF JP MEMBERS TAKE "SICK LEAVE" RATHER THAN VOTE FOR A COALITION INCLUDING THE EXTREME RIGHTWING NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (NAP). HOWEVER, OTHERS EXPECT A NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) FAVORING DEMIREL.

2. THE PROSPECTS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE MAY ALSO BE AFFECTED BY THE RPP'S OTHER EFFORTS TO DEFEAT THE COALITION. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR SHIFT OF STRATEGY, THE RPP HAS OPENED AN INTENSIVE LOBBYING EFFORT AGAINST THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME HAS OFFERED AN ALTERNATIVE THAT IS NOT A GOVERNMENT PREDICATED ON EARLY ELECTIONS. IN A SPEECH TO THE RPP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP APRIL 9, RPP LEADER ECEVIT ASKED AND ANSWERED THE QUESTION OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF DEMIREL FAILS. ECEVIT OFFERED TWO ALTERNATIVES: (A) AN ELECTION GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) AND TECHNOCRATS SUPPORTED BY THE RPP, OR (B) THE POSSIBILITY OF A "STRONG AND LASTING" GOVERNMENT FORMED BY THE RPP, PROVIDED THAT IT INCREASED ITS PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH. ECEVIT ACCOMPANIED THESE PROPOSALS WITH PRAISE FOR THE THREE PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO HAD RESIGNED FROM THEIR OWN PARTIES IN ORDER TO JOIN THE RPP.

3. COMMENT: THE RPP'S WILLINGNESS UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS TO FORM A "LASTING" GOVERNMENT ADDS YET ANOTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR TO AN ALREADY CONFUSED SITUATION. ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ECEVIT COULD ATTRACT A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF DISSIDENTS TO MAKE AN RPP GOVERNMENT POSSIBLE, THE PROPOSAL ITSELF WILL DEPRIVE DEMIREL OF THE THREAT (VERY PERSUASIVE AMONG DEPUTIES WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEAR TO FACE NEW ELECTIONS) THAT HIS FAILURE WOULD LEAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO ELECTIONS THUS IT MIGHT PERSUADE STILL MORE PARLIAMENTARIANS WITH SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE COALITION VOTE AGAINST DEMIREL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ANKARA02837  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 ANKARA 2763  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONFIDENCE VOTE OUTCOME MORE UNCERTAIN AS RPP MAKES NEW PROPOSAL  
**TAGS:** PINT, TU, (DEMIREL, SULEYMAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006